

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/AB:JKARINSHAK

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R 152052Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009814

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 00462 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, AMMAN,
DAMASCUS, CAIRO AND TEL AVIV DATED 11 JANUARY 1975:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0462

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE PLO XF

SUBJ: ARAFAT ALLEGEDLY OPTIMISTIC RE PEACE PROSPECTS

1. IN DISCUSSION EVENING JAN 10 WITH DCM ON CURRENT AREA
SITUATION, LOCAL PALESTINIAN BUSINESSMAN WHO IS KNOWN TO BE
FRIEND OF PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT MAINTAINED ONLY ONE OTHER
PERSON BESIDE HIMSELF WHOM HE KNEW WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE.
IN RESPONSE DCM QUERY SOURCE NAMED ARAFAT AND
EXPLAINED THAT ARAFAT OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE HE
CONVINCED US AND THE SOVIETS HAD AGREED
SITUATION HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH AND HAD TO BE
SETTLED. ARAFAT WAS ALSO REASSURED BY INFORMATION
FROM EGYPTIANS CONCERNING US INTENTIONS. WHEN
DCM NOTED THAT PALESTINIANS AT PRESENT WERE CRITICIZING EGYPTIANS
SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT ARAFAT HIMSELF WAS MODERATE AND REALISTIC
BUT COULD NOT AFFORD AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME TO
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HAVE DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH REJECTIONIST

GROUP ALTHOUGH HE FULLY INTENDED TO DO SO AT
APPROPRIATE TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WERE ACTIONS AND
STATEMENTS MADE BY ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MOVEMENT
WITH WHICH ARAFAT DID NOT AGREE BUT WHICH FOR TACTICAL
REASONS HE COULD NOT OPPOSE. GODLEY UNQTE KISSINGER

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